

Section II. REMARKS**Acknowledgement of Allowance of Claims 22-27, 51-53 and 56**

The allowance of claims 22-27, 51-53 and 56 in the October 14, 2005 Office Action is acknowledged.

Withdrawal of Prior Grounds of Rejection of Claims 19-21

The previous rejections of claims 19-21 imposed in the June 17, 2005 Office Action have been withdrawn in the June 17, 2005 Office Action, and new grounds of rejection have been imposed in the October 14, 2005 Office Action, based on newly cited references of Herrmann et al., Magladry et al., Falce, Goeser et al., and Inoue et al.

Rejection of Claims on Reference Grounds, and Traversal Thereof

In the October 14, 2005 Office Action, claims 19-21 were rejected on new reference grounds, including:

- a rejection of claims 19-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Herrmann et al. U.S. Patent 6,309,546 (hereafter "Herrmann");
- a rejection of claims 19 and 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Magladry et al. U.S. Patent 3,803,043 (hereafter "Magladry");
- a rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Falce U.S. Patent 4,165,473 (hereafter "Falce");
- a rejection of claim 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Goesner et al. U.S. Patent 5,266,414 ("Goesner");
- a rejection of claims 19-21 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Inoue et al. U.S. Patent 6,136,170 ("Inoue"); and
- a rejection of claim 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Goesner or Falce.

Such rejections are traversed in application to claims 19-21 as amended herein, in light of the ensuing remarks concerning the patentable distinction of amended claims 19-21 over the cited references.

Patentable Distinction of Claims 19-21 Over the Cited References

Independent claims 19 and 20 have been amended to more broadly claim the metal particles in the respectively claimed methods as Group VIII or Group IB metals, in connection with the amendment of such claims to direct them to the following respective method aspects of the invention:

19. (Currently amended) A method of packaging a low vapor pressure fluid for storage and dispensing thereof, comprising:

forming a porous metal matrix, including the steps of:

providing fine metal particles comprising a Group VIII or Group IB metal;

sintering said fine metal particles to form the porous metal matrix; and

contacting the low vapor pressure fluid with said porous metal matrix in a containment vessel adapted to be closed for storage of said fluid on said porous metal matrix and to be opened for dispensing of said fluid.

20. (Currently amended) A method of protecting a gas flow regulator from contact with low vapor pressure liquefied gas in a storage and dispensing vessel holding said low vapor pressure liquefied gas for dispensing of gas deriving therefrom through said gas flow regulator, said method comprising:

making a porous metal matrix, including the steps of:

providing fine metal particles comprising a Group VIII or Group IB metal; and

sintering said fine metal particles to form the porous metal matrix, wherein the fine metal particles have average particle size in a range of from about 20 nm to about 1.0 μm ; and

arranging the porous metal matrix to sorptively take up any low vapor pressure liquefied gas that would otherwise flow into the regulator.

There is no derivative basis in the cited references of Herrmann, Magladry, Falce, Goesner, and/or Inoue for such packaging or regulator protective methods. Claims 19 and 20 are therefore patentable over the disclosures of such references, as is claim 21, dependent on claim 19.

It is pointed out in respect of the foregoing, in relation to the finality of the rejection of claims 19-21 in the October 14, 2005 Office Action, that subject matter similar to that of claim 19 has already been found allowable in the allowance of claim 51, and that subject matter similar to that of claim 20 has been found allowable in the allowance of claim 56.

Accordingly, entry of the amendment of claims 19 and 20 is requested under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 as involving no additional search or consideration, in light of the prior allowance of claims 51 and 56, and allowance of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 22-27, 51-53 and 56 have been allowed. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to recite corresponding subject matter to allowed claims 51 and 56, respectfully. Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and is likewise patentable.

Issue of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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